

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086102

FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: LETTER TO GEN. OBASANJO FROM PRESIDENT CARTER

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE DATED APRIL 3, 1978
FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO GEN. OBASANJO:

BEGIN TEXT:

ROSALYNN AND I DEEPLY APPRECIATED YOUR WARM HOSPITALITY.
IT WAS OF REAL VALUE TO SEE FOR OURSELVES THE ACHIEVEMENTS
WHICH THE ENERGY OF YOUR COUNTRY HAS BROUGHT FORTH. THE
PACE AND PROGRESS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA ARE MOST IMPRESSIVE.

ABOVE ALL, WE WERE MOVED BY THE OPEN DIGNITY AND FRIEND-
SHIP WITH WHICH THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE RECEIVED US. YOUR
NATION'S CULTURE IS RICH AND DIVERSE AND WE ARE GRATEFUL
FOR THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH YOU GAVE US TO KNOW IT BETTER.
ROSALYNN AND I WERE DEEPLY TOUCHED BY YOUR GIFTS TO US
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OF THE BEAUTIFUL LEATHER HASSOCKS AND LENGTHS OF FABRIC.
THESE GIFTS WILL LONG BE TREASURED AS A REMEMBRANCE OF
OUR VISIT WITH YOU.

AS THE TIME FOR MY TRIP APPROACHED, I LOOKED FORWARD

TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN SEEK YOUR COUNSEL ON INTER-

NATIONAL AND AFRICAN QUESTIONS, ON BILATERAL ISSUES
AND ON OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. MY ANTICIPATION
WAS MORE THAN FULFILLED. UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP, NIGERIA
IS SHOWING THE WAY TO SOLVING AFRICAN PROBLEMS. I
WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECONFIRM OUR MUTUAL COMMIT-
MENT TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS IN THE HORN AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA. IN PARTICULAR, IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO BE ABLE
TO AGREE WITH YOU ON THE NEXT STEPS WHICH WE SHOULD TAKE
IN PURSUIT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND TO SECURE THE
EARLIEST POSSIBLE AGREEMENT TO THE INITIAL CONTACT GROUP
PROPOSAL ON NAMIBIA.

I HOPE THAT YOU SENSE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE WHICH I
ATTACH TO OUR CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AND TO EXPAND-
ING THE TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE BILATERAL
ECONOMIC WORKING GROUPS WHICH WE DISCUSSED SHOULD HELP
US CARRY THIS WORK FORWARD. THEN I WILL COUNT ON YOU
TO CONTACT ME PERSONALLY SHOULD YOU SEE ANY PROBLEM
ARISING IN EXPANDING OUR COOPERATION.

I VALUE GREATLY OUR PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP AND LOOK FORWARD
TO RECEIVING YOUR THOUGHTS AND ADVICE.

SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER

END TEXT
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